

*Project estimated to create 900 construction jobs throughout the three regions and 80 jobs in Stockton during the operation phase*

*February 17, 2010*

Stockton, CA – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) today announced that the Port of Stockton, along with the Ports of Oakland and West Sacramento, will collectively receive \$30 million in grant funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Port of Stockton, in partnership with the Ports of Oakland and West Sacramento, plan to use the funds to create a “Marine Highway” that will be used to transport cargo via barge between the three Ports. The creation of a “Marine Highway” will promote economic activity in the San Joaquin Valley, create new construction and operational jobs, and relieve traffic along major transportation corridors.

Congressman McNerney, along with other members of the California congressional delegation, sent two letters last year to the Department of Transportation strongly advocating for this grant.

“I’m thrilled that the Port of Stockton, along with the Ports of Oakland and West Sacramento will together receive \$30 million in grant funds,” said Rep. McNerney. “The project is expected to create a significant number of jobs, increase economic activity, and relieve congestion along heavily traveled transportation corridors. At a time when unemployment is above 17% in San Joaquin County, the establishment of a “Marine Highway” to the Port of Stockton will help get people back to work and increase economic activity for San Joaquin County and our region.”

Port of Stockton Director Rick Aschieris joined Congressman McNerney in recognizing the importance of the grant.

“This is an important day in the history of the Port of Stockton, and I am thankful for Congressman McNerney’s strong support of the project,” said Mr. Aschieris. “This funding will create immediate construction jobs for project development as well as long-term jobs through the operational phases of the project. The grant will also significantly increase the ability of the Port to handle new cargo in the future and continue to expand economic activity in our region.”

These funds are being awarded by the Department of Transportation in the form of a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant. This type of grant is awarded to transportation projects that promote significant economic and environmental benefits to a specific region.